



677 US \$1.00
CAN \$1.25
MAY 92 UK 60p

SUPERMAN

IN ACTION COMICS

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY



1992

20

MAKE ROOM
FOR THE
NEW
METROPOLIS
MARVEL!

CHRIS LUTHE
TREVOR SCOTT

BY
STERN,
GUICE &
RODIER

WHERE TO BEGIN?

"I COME FROM ANOTHER WORLD--AN ALTERED VERSION OF THIS EARTH THAT YOU KNOW--WHICH HAD BEEN CREATED BY A MYSTERIOUS COSMIC ENTITY."

"I MYSELF WAS BORN FULL-GROWN IN A LABORATORY...AN ARTIFICIAL BEING CREATED FROM SYNTHETIC PROTO-MATTER, FORMED FROM THE MOLECULAR MATRIX OF A DYING WOMAN."

"I CARRIED HER MEMORIES IN THE EARLY DAYS OF MY LIFE. FOR A WHILE, I BELIEVED THAT I WAS HER."

"THOSE MEMORIES HAVE MOSTLY FADED, AND I CAN NOW RECALL MY FIRST TRUE MOMENT OF LIFE."

"I REMEMBER...GREEN..."

"...THE DEEP GREEN EYES OF MY CREATOR."

"IT WORKED... THANK GOD, IT WORKED..."

"...YOU'RE ALIVE!"

MY
SUPERGIRL
LIVES!!

ROGER STERN - WRITER
JACKSON & DENIS - ARTISTS
GUICE & RODIER
BILL OAKLEY - LETTERER
GLENN WHITMORE - COLORIST
DAN THORLAND - ASSISTANT EDITOR
MIKE CARLIN - EDITOR

X

SUPERMAN CREATED BY
JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER

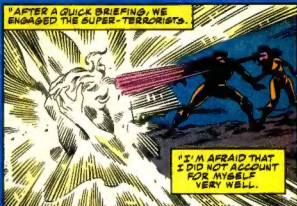




"...THOUGH HE WAS SPEECHLESS AT MEETING MY CREATOR."

SUPERMAN, THIS IS LEX LUTHOR.

"BUT HE DIDN'T HAVE MUCH TIME TO STAY SURPRISED."

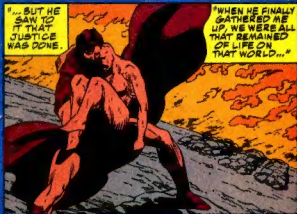


"AFTER A QUICK BRIEFING, WE ENGAGED THE SUPER-TERRORISTS."

"I'M AFRAID THAT I DID NOT ACCOUNT FOR MYSELF VERY WELL."



"IN THE END, SUPERMAN STOOD AGAINST THEM ALONE..."



"...BUT HE SAW TO IT THAT JUSTICE WAS DONE."

"WHEN HE FINALLY GATHERED ME UP, WE WERE ALL THAT REMAINED OF LIFE ON THAT WORLD..."



"HE BROUGHT ME BACK TO EARTH, AND SAW TO IT THAT I WAS NURSED BACK TO HEALTH."

MY PHYSICAL TRAUMAS HEALED MUCH EASIER THAN DID THOSE OF MY MIND.

I BECAME... UNCOMFORTABLE WITH MY LIFE... AND LEFT EARTH FOR THE STARS.



EVENTUALLY, I REALIZED THAT MY RUNNING AWAY WAS POINTLESS... THAT I MUST LEARN TO ACCEPT WHAT I AM.

I'M SO GLAD YOU STOPPED RUNNING, LOVE. YOU DON'T KNOW HOW HAPPY YOUR RETURN TO EARTH HAS MADE ME.

I NEVER WOULD HAVE LEFT, IF I HAD KNOWN YOU WERE HERE--

"...IN LOVE AND WAR!"



--MY
DARLING
LEX!

I STILL BLUSH
AT HOW I MISTOOK
YOU FOR MY CREATOR
WHEN WE MET*... BUT
YOU ARE THE VERY
IMAGE OF HIM!

CAN
YOU EVER
FORGIVE
ME--?

DON'T
FRET,
LOVE--

--I COULD HARDLY
BE JEALOUS OF ANOTHER
VERSION OF MYSELF, NOW
COULD I? NO, I'LL BE
FOREVER GRATEFUL TO
THAT OTHER
LUTHOR...

... AFTER ALL,
THROUGH HIS GENIUS,
I HAVE FOUND MY HEART'S
DESIRE!

*LAST ISSUE.



I MUST CON-
FESS, THOUGH,
THAT I AM
INTRIGUED BY
THIS POCKET
UNIVERSE YOU
DESCRIBED--

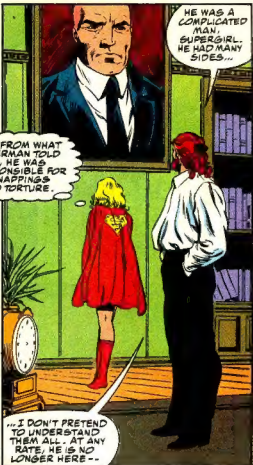
--AND THE VERY IDEA
THAT IN IT ONE
EXISTED AN ALTERNATE
VERSION OF MYSELF...
OR RATHER, OF MY
LATE FATHER.

YOUR
FATHER...
YES.

WHAT IS
IT, DEAR
ONE? WHAT'S
WRONG?

I MET YOUR
FATHER ONCE.
WHEN I FIRST
CAME TO EARTH.
FORGIVE ME,
BUT I DID NOT
LIKE HIM. HE
STRUCK ME AS
MEAN-SPIRITED
AND COLD.

AND FROM WHAT
SUPERMAN TOLD
ME, HE WAS
RESPONSIBLE FOR
KIDNAPPINGS
AND TORTURE.



HE WAS A
COMPLICATED
MAN,
SUPERGIRL.
HE HAD MANY
SIDES...

"I DON'T PRETEND
TO UNDERSTAND
THEM ALL. AT ANY
RATE, HE IS NO
LONGER HERE--



--I HAVE INHERITED
HIS PLACE IN THE
WORLD. AND I
AM NOT COLD.
AM I?

MMM,
NOT AT
ALL!

LOVE?
DO THAT
TRICK
FOR ME
AGAIN...



...THE ONE WITH
YOUR POWERS.

ANOTHER
DEMONSTRA-
TION, LEX? WHAT
SHALL I DO--



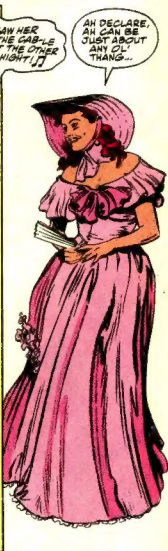
--DISAPPEAR
FOR YOU?

WHAT?
NO, I
MEANT--!



WHOOOAAH!

OR WOULD
YOU LIKE TO
LEARN HOW
IT FEELS TO
FLY?





...WITH SOME EFFORT, I CAN EVEN INCREASE MY VOLUME, BUT THAT CAN BE QUITE PAINFUL. I FELT A LITTLE SILLY IN SOME OF THOSE SHAPES...

...THIS IS THE FORM I'M HAPPIEST WITH. I HOPE YOU ARE, TOO.

UH...YES! YES, OF COURSE.

BUT HOW DO YOU ALTER YOUR CLOTHING THAT WAY?



OH... I GUESS I SORT OF GIVE ITS MOLECULES A PUSH IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION!

WHY?

JUST CURIOUS, LOVE.

I WANT TO KNOW ALL THAT THERE IS TO KNOW ABOUT YOU!

EVIDENTLY SOME SORT OF PSYCHOKINETIC PHENOMENON... NO DOUBT UNIQUE TO HER. JUST AS WELL, OF COURSE... IF THAT ABILITY COULD BE DUPLICATED--



---IT WOULD WRECK THE GARMENT INDUSTRY! BUT, LOIS--- KNIKERS---!!

THEY FEEL GREAT, CLARK. COMFORTABLE CLOTHES SHOULD ALWAYS BE IN STYLE!

BESIDES, THEY WERE A THIEF STORE SPECIAL!

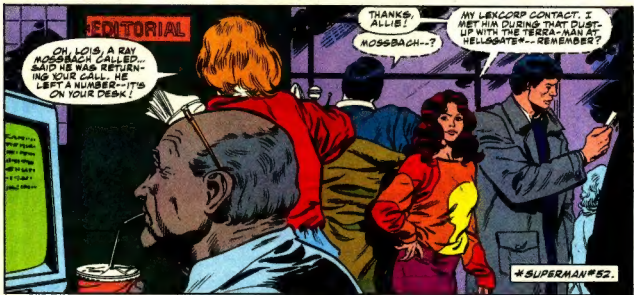
YOU THINK THEY'RE NOT THE RIGHT LOOK FOR ME?



BABE, THERE IS NO WRONG LOOK FOR YOU!

FLATTERER!

O'NON, LET'S GET TO WORK!



EDITORIAL

OH, LOIS, A RAY MOSSBACH CALLED... SAID HE WAS RETURNING YOUR CALL. HE LEFT A NUMBER--IT'S ON YOUR DESK!

THANKS, ALLIE!

MOSSBACH--?

MY LEXCORP CONTACT. I MET HIM DURING THAT DUST-UP WITH THE TERRA-MAN HELLSGATE-- REMEMBER?

*SUPERMAN#52.





"... I CAN'T HELP BUT WISH THAT HE WOULD CATCH SOME OF THE GRIER I DID!"

YOU ... YOU'RE KIDDING ME, MR. LING ... AREN'T YOU?

I'D HARDLY JOKE ABOUT SUCH A MATTER, FOSWELL. BELIEVE ME, THIS IS THE PART OF BEING A PUBLISHER WHICH I HATE THE MOST.

I WISH THERE WERE ANOTHER WAY... YOU DID GOOD WORK ON THE NATIONAL NEWS DESK...



... BUT WE HAVE TO LET YOU GO.

YOU MUST REALIZE THE MESS YOU MADE OF THINGS, ACTING AS MANAGING EDITOR DURING PERRY WHITE'S ABSENCE.

THE FIRINGS... AND THE EDITORIALS YOU WROTE DURING THE STRIKE... STIRRED UP ALL FEELINGS THAT WILL LAST FOR YEARS!



SIR, I WAS UNDER MANAGEMENT DIRECTIVES TO TRIM THE FAT.

BESIDES, I'VE BEEN BACK AT THE NATIONAL DESK FOR WEEKS--



-- WHY AM I BEING FIRED NOW?!

WE'RE MERGING NATIONAL NEWS WITH THE D.C. BUREAU, SAM...



WE CAN'T KEEP YOU ANY LONGER. YOU'RE A SORE POINT WITH TOO MANY PEOPLE.

B-- BUT THIS NEWS-PAPER'S BEEN MY LIFE!

DAILY PLANET -- UNFAIR!



DAILY PLANET-- UNFAIR!

NOW WHAT? KEEP THE CHANGE.



WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT? WHAT IS IT WE'RE SUPPOSED TO HAVE DONE?

WELL, WELL... MR. PERRY WHITE.

IT'S NOT WHAT YOU'VE DONE... IT'S WHAT YOU HAVEN'T DONE!



WE'RE HERE TO PROTEST
THE LACK OF MINORITY
HIRING AT THIS
NEWSPAPER!

EH? YOU
CAN'T BE
SERIOUS



THE DAILY PLANET WAS
ONE OF THE FIRST NEWS
PAPERS TO AGGRESSIVELY
RECRUIT WOMEN AND
PEOPLE OF COLOR!

OUR MINORITY
INTERNSHIP PROGRAM
WAS ONE OF THE
FIRST! GREAT
CAESAR'S GHOST,
OUR C.E.O. IS
ASIAN-AMERICAN!



OH, YEAH? WELL, YOU HAVEN'T
BEEN HIRING MINORITIES
LATELY!

OH, NO!

THE CITY'S
ECONOMIC STATE
HAS THROWN
EVERYONE FOR A
LOOP! WE HAVEN'T
BEEN HIRING
ANYONE LATELY!

NO? WHAT
ABOUT THAT
PHOTOGRAPHER
YOU HIRED LAST
WEEK?



JIMMY OLSEN WAS RE-
HIRED AFTER A LAYOFF
THAT WAS A COMPLETELY
DIFFERENT CASE!

BULL--!

IF PERRY
WHITE SAYS IT,
IT'S NO BULL,
ROBERTA! YOU'RE
WAY OFF BASE
ON THIS ONE!



RON?
LISTEN--!

NO, YOU LISTEN,
SISTER DEAR!

THE PLANET'S
SUPPORTED
CIVIL RIGHTS
LONGER THAN
WE'VE BEEN
ALIVE... AND
THEY'VE
ALWAYS PUT
THEIR MONEY
WHERE THEIR
MOUTH IS!



THANKS, SON,
BUT... SAY,
DON'T I
KNOW YOU?

I HARDLY
THINK SO, SIR.
WE MET ONCE
WHEN YOU SPOKE
AT HOWARD
UNIVERSITY,
BUT--!

I REMEMBER
--RONALD TROPE!
YOU'RE WORKING
AT NEWSTIME
NOW, RIGHT?



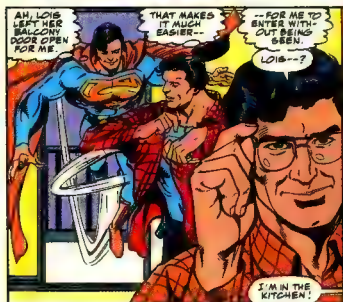
UH...
YES

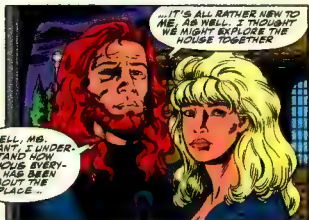
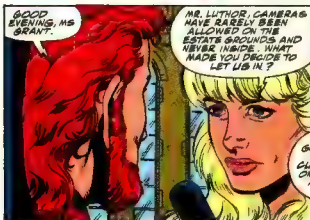
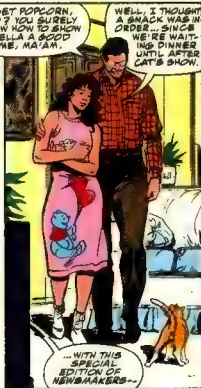
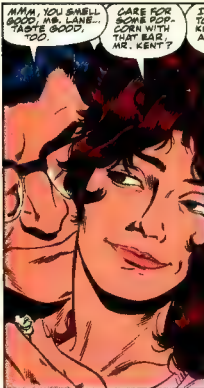
HEARD GOOD THINGS
ABOUT YOU, SON.

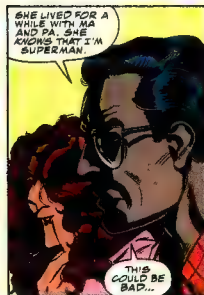
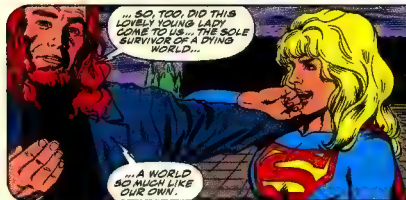
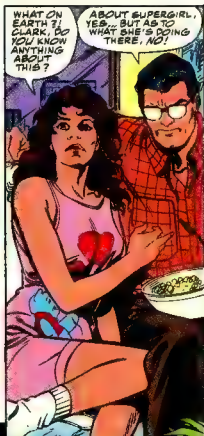
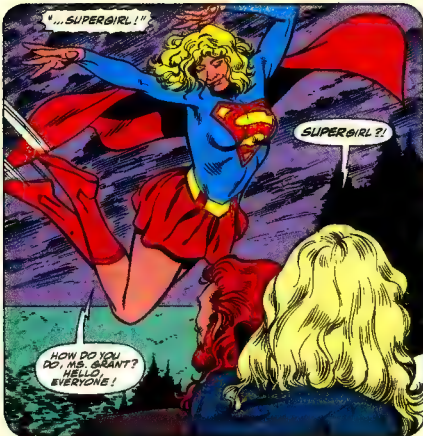
ANYWAY, DON'T
BE TOO HARD ON
YOUR SISTER. EVERY
ESTABLISHMENT
NEEDS TO BE
QUESTIONED NOW
AND THEN

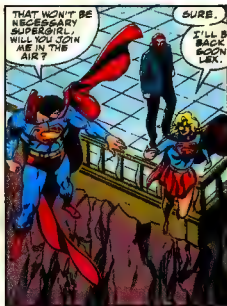
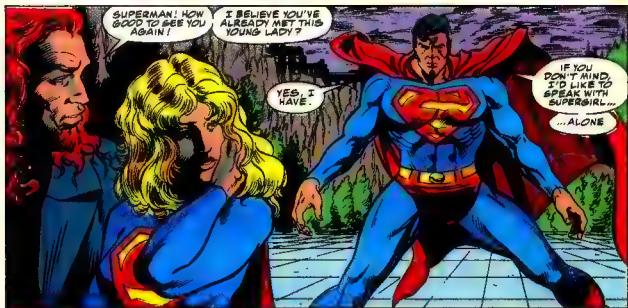
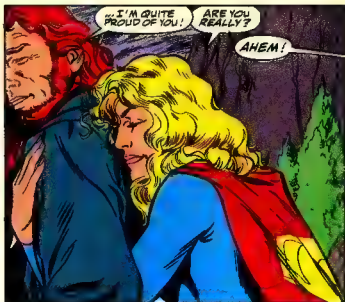
HE REMEMBERED ME.
PERRY WHITE KNOWS
WHO I AM. WOW...

35 HOURS LATER...









...ANYWAY, I'M SORRY I WASN'T AROUND TO HELP WHEN THAT ENERGY CLOUD THREATENED THE CITY--*

--BUT I WAS STILL RECUPERATING FROM THE CRASH OF THE SHIP THAT BROUGHT ME BACK TO EARTH.**

SO...WHAT IS IT THAT YOU WANTED TO TALK SUPERMAN?

UH...NO, SUPERGIRL...I JUST WANTED TO GET YOU FAR ENOUGH AWAY FROM LUTHOR'S ESTATE THAT WE COULD TALK IN PRIVATE--

AND WHERE ARE WE GOING? IS THERE SOME NEW MESSAGE THAT YOU NEED MY HELP AGAINST?

--AWAY FROM ANY STEINBOY CRIES

* IN SUPER-MAN # 87. **AS RECORDED LAST ISSUE

LISTENING DEVICES?! LEX WOULD NEVER USE SUCH THINGS!

ON DON'T BE SILLY! LEX IS THE kindest, most wonderful man--

ON, THAT YOU SHOULD BE CAREFUL ABOUT ENTERING INTO ANY...RELATIONSHIPS WITH LUTHOR

***!! THEY WERE OUT OF RANGE WITHIN SECONDS!

YOU HEARD ME: I WANT THAT DOCTOR WERE NOW!

I'M NOT SAYING HE WOULD...BUT HIS FATHER PROBABLY HAD THAT WHOLE BLAND BUGGED

SO JUST WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?

I KNOW...THAT'S BEEN THE GENERAL IMPRESSION AND HE MIGHT WELL BE EVERYTHING HE SEEMS

BUT NOW MUCH DO ANY OF US REALLY KNOW ABOUT HIM? HE'S RATHER HID A LOT BEHIND A BENEVOLENT PUBLIC FACE--

WHY, SUPERMAN...
ARE YOU...
JEALOUS?

WHAT?! NO, OF
COURSE NOT! IT'S
NOTHING LIKE THAT
AT ALL! I JUST DON'T
WANT TO SEE YOU
HURT

AND YOU
SHOULD ALWAYS
BE CAREFUL
OF WHAT YOU
CONFIDE IN HIM.
I... WAS
WONDERING...

IS THAT WHAT THIS
IS ALL ABOUT? YOU'RE
WORRIED THAT I
MIGHT HAVE TOLD SOME-
ONE ABOUT YOUR
DOUBLE LIFE?

HOW COULD YOU
EVEN THINK SUCH
A THING?!

WELL, YOU
NEEDN'T
WORRY! I'VE
KEPT YOUR
PRECIOUS
SECRET...

...WHAT
HAVE YOU TOLD
HIM... ABOUT
YOU AND ME?

NO
ONE WILL
EVER LEARN
IT FROM ME
NO ONE!

I'M SORRY
THAT I
DOUBTED YOU...
BUT PEOPLE'S
LIVES COULD
BE IN JEOPARDY
IF THE WORLD
KNEW I HAD
A SECRET
IDENTITY.

WE HAVE
TO BE CAREFUL!
ONE ERROR IN
JUDGMENT AND--!

YOU'RE
A FINE ONE TO TALK!
YOU LET BRAINIAC
TRICK YOU INTO
FIGHTING HIM ON
WARWORLD--ON
HIS TERMS!"

IF
YOU'D BEEN
MORE CARE-
FUL, POOR
DRAAGA MIGHT
STILL BE
ALIVE!

DON'T CHANGE
THE SUBJECT; THAT
HAS NOTHING TO
DO WITH THIS!

IT
WAS EVERYTHING
TO DO WITH THIS! WE
WERE DISCUSSING
JUDGMENTAL
ERRORS, WERENT
WE?

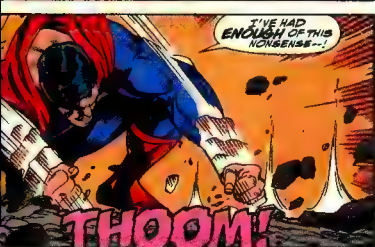
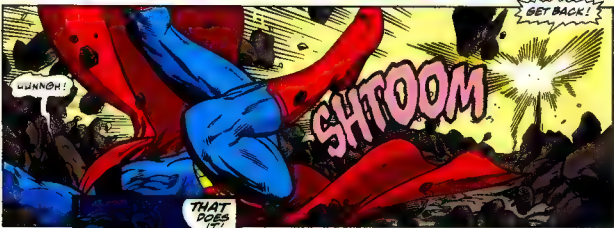
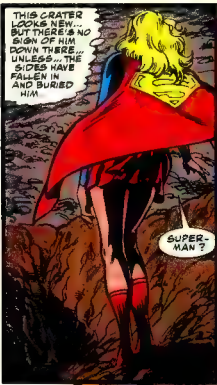
LOOK,
YOUNG LADY,
MY MA AND
PA WORKED
THEIR HEADS
OFF, TRYING
TO IN STILL
SOME
COMMON
SENSE IN
YOU!

DIDN'T
ANY OF
THAT SINK
IN?

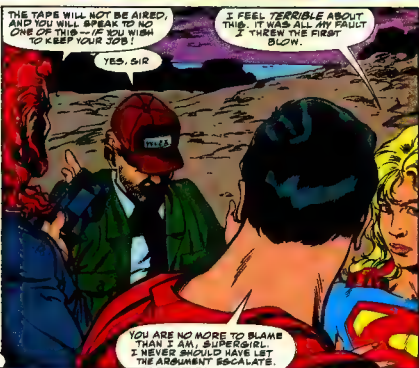
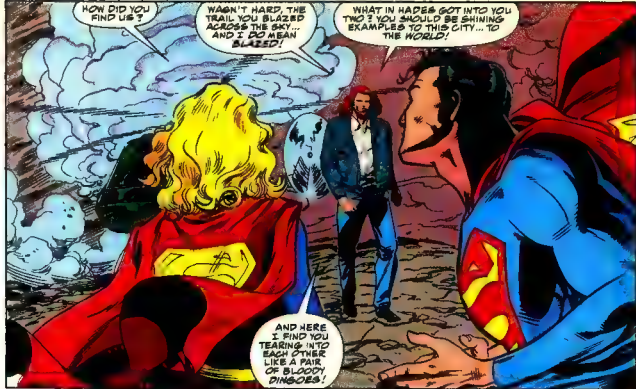
OR IS
YOUR MIND
STILL ADDLED
FROM YOUR
RUN-IN WITH
BRAINIAC?!

"IN OUR RECENT 'PANIC IN THE SKY'
STORYLINE.











IT DOESN'T MATTER WHO STARTED WHAT--IT'S OVER NOW.

AS LONG AS THIS TAPE STAYS IN MY POSSESSION, YOU'LL NOT FACE ANY PUBLIC HUMILIATION.

C'MON LOVE, LET'S SHOVE OFF!



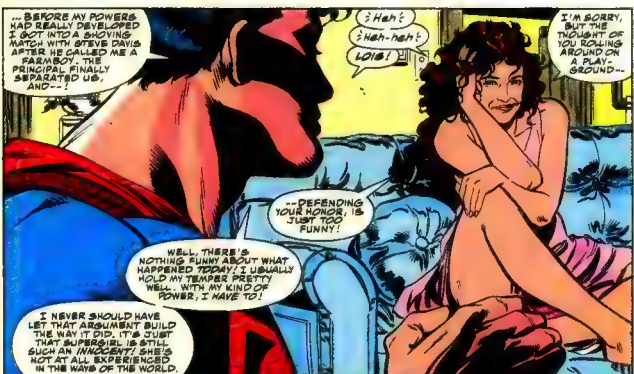
I JUST HOPE YOU'VE BOTH LEARNED SOMETHING FROM THIS...



"...YOU ESPECIALLY, SUPERMAN."

I FELT LIKE A COMPLETE IDIOT!

THE LAST TIME I GOT INTO A FIGHT LIKE THAT, I WAS SIX YEARS OLD...



...BEFORE MY POWERS HAD REALLY DEVELOPED I GOT INTO A SHOVING MATCH WITH STEVE DAVIS AFTER HE CALLED ME A FARMBOY. THE PRINCIPAL FINALLY SEPARATED US, AND--!

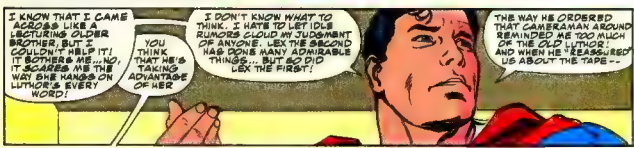
! Heh!
! Heh-heh!
LOIS!

I'M SORRY, BUT THE THOUGHT OF YOU ROLLING AROUND ON A PLAYGROUND--

--DEFENDING YOUR HONOR, IS JUST TOO FUNNY!

WELL, THERE'S NOTHING FUNNY ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED TODAY. I USUALLY HOLD MY TEMPER PRETTY WELL. WITH MY KIND OF POWER, I HAVE TO!

I NEVER SHOULD HAVE LET THAT ARGUMENT BUILD THE WAY IT DID. IT'S JUST THAT SUPERGIRL IS STILL SUCH AN INNOCENT! SHE'S NOT AT ALL EXPERIENCED IN THE WAYS OF THE WORLD.



I KNOW THAT I CAME ACROSS LIKE A LECTURING OLDER BROTHER, BUT I COULDN'T HELP IT! IT BOTHERS ME... NO, IT SCARES ME THE WAY SHE HANDS ON LUTHOR'S EVERY WORD!

YOU THINK THAT HE'S TAKING ADVANTAGE OF HER

I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO THINK. I HATE TO LET IDLE RUMORS CLOUD MY JUDGMENT OF ANYONE. LEX THE SECOND HAS DONE MANY ADMIRABLE THINGS... BUT SO DID LEX THE FIRST!

THE WAY HE ORDERED THAT CAMERAMAN AROUND REMINDED ME TOO MUCH OF THE OLD LUTHOR! AND WHEN HE REASSURED US ABOUT THE TAPE--



-- I'D SWEAR THAT I HEARD AN IMPLIED THREAT. MAYBE I'M BEING PARANOID.

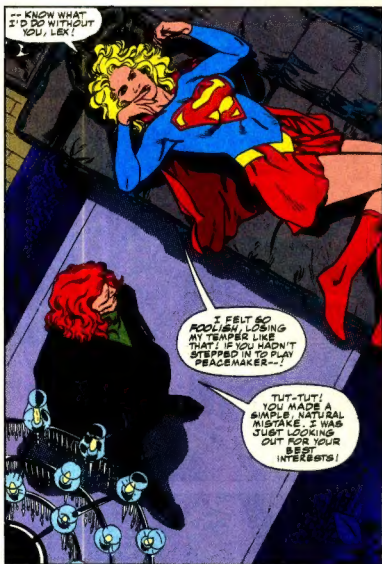
ABSOLUTELY NOT! IF HE HAD GINGERLY WANTED TO REASSURE YOU, HE'D HAVE DESTROYED THAT TAPE!

I THINK WE SHOULD KEEP A CLOSE WATCH ON THE YOUNG MR. LUTHOR-- AND BE THERE TO HELP SUPERGIRL, IF SHE NEEDS US.



LOIS... YOU'RE SOMETHING SPECIAL, YOU KNOW THAT?

YOU KEEP GIVING ME NEW REASONS TO BE GLAD I ASKED YOU TO MARRY ME. I JUST DON'T--



-- KNOW WHAT I'D DO WITHOUT YOU, LEX!

I FELT SO FOOLISH, LOSING MY TEMPER LIKE THAT! IF YOU HADN'T STEPPED IN TO PLAY PEACEMAKER--!

TUT-TUT! YOU MADE A SIMPLE, NATURAL MISTAKE. I WAS JUST LOOKING OUT FOR YOUR BEST INTERESTS!



YOU'RE SO THOUGHTFUL, LEX.

I LOVE YOU SO VERY MUCH.



I KNOW, DEAR.



I KNOW.

NEXT ISSUE: THE STORY YOU DEMANDED!!
THEY SAVED LUTHOR'S BRAIN!



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Dear Mike:

Re: ACTION COMICS #673—Mannheim is dead, huh? Too bad. There just aren't enough good villains to be had these days, and "Ugly" was one of them. Still can't get over his being from Apokolips, though. I wonder if Mr. Kirby initially had that in mind...

Geez, it's been, like, eons since Hellgrammite first surfaced in an old BRAVE AND THE BOLD with Batman and the Creeper. So, he's after Luthor Jr., is he? Lex will turn this to his advantage, seeing Superman battle this pug-ugly mutation on his behalf. But I would like to see Lex handle this himself, to prove he is much more of a fighter than his father was. Hmm, a Luthor/Superman team, even temporary, would turn a few heads.

Jacob Gilbert
Troy, NY

*Not as much as the Luthor/
Supergirl match, we bet!*

Dear Mike and Dan:

The plight of Jimmy Olsen is both overwrought and educational. Jimmy has fallen in so short a time, and so many problems have befallen him that it seems it's "pick on Jimmy" season. I do feel that each member of the creative team had his/her licks, and Jimmy's bad luck has reached almost-humorous proportions.

What is not humorous is his plight itself. Being homeless is a topic worth bringing attention to, and the entire Superman team has done well in educating readers on the dilemmas faced by the unfortunate downtrodden. How close are many of us to the street? One paycheck away? Especially during this season, it is imperative that these forgotten people not be ignored. Jimmy was lucky to find Bibbo. Most don't have a Bibbo to run to.

And, what of Jimmy's friends? How quickly they forget him! It's true that we maintain busy lives, and as a result some friends are neglected or forgotten. Are these true friends? Superman's even neglected his former best pal. It's ironic that Superman can tell when

an alien invasion is being plotted or when Intergang is on the loose, but not when his "friend" is in trouble.

Jimmy will clearly be changed by this episode. I hope he'll retain much of what he learns, perhaps living and working about Suicide Slum. I also hope this will encourage Superman to focus more attention on individuals, perhaps as in his early days doing good deeds for the common man on the street. Superman flies in the skies above, privileged and superior. He, too, needs to touch the ground and understand what it's really like.

Thanks for the thought and tone of this plot.

Mark Lucas
Los Angeles, CA

Superman is indeed aware of the man on the street, Mark, as both SUPERMAN #65 and ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN #488 will attest. The reason Clark didn't help Jimmy was that Jimmy wouldn't let him—or anyone else, for that matter. Jimmy's prideful fibbing set up such a smoke screen that even his own mother had no idea what kind of trouble he was in. Jimmy had many more people to rely on than just Bibbo, not always the case with people on the street. Despite the humor of Jimmy's partially self-inflicted troubles, at no point were any of us trying to belittle the plight of the homeless people in this country. It's a serious problem and it isn't just affecting the man on the street, but the women and children as well.

Dear People of Action:

While I admit that it was Lex Luthor's remains in the wreckage, I am still not convinced that he's dead. I have watched too many daytime soap operas to believe you, I'm sorry. Lex had some of the most advanced technology at his disposal, perhaps even alien technology.

Re: ACTION COMICS #672—Lex II really is his father's son. I was glad to see someone not buying his "what-do-you-mean-my-father-was-a-monster?" act. Good for

you, Perry! I don't think it will take very long before Clark sniffs him out. What I can't believe is that he bought the act in the first place. Time will tell.

Big Blue won't let me down.

Rick Le Mieux
Inverness, FL

Hey, Dan:

I can't remember the last time a subplot got a cover of the Superman quartet. While it was a great-looking scene, the cover of ACTION COMICS #673 was a little misleading and seemingly unnecessary. Next time, try to keep the focus on the main story, not a two- or three-page subplot.

I don't remember the last time Bob McLeod's Superman looked as awesome as it did on the first three pages of this issue. As I have said before, Denis Rodier's inking seems to diminish some of the visual impact of Bob's Superman. This issue, however, he looked just fine.

Well, it's great to know that Jimmy might finally be on the road to getting his job back. I, for one, have seen and heard enough of his lies and cover-ups. Jimmy, Jimmy, Jimmy—why is it every time you get in some trouble, you cut off everyone and try to fix the problem by yourself? Wake up and smell the grease (he's staying at Bibbo's, remember?), Olsen! Even Superman needs others to help him through some crises.

Speaking of crises, did Superman really kill Mannheim?!! WOW!! I never thought that you would kill that guy off, even accidentally. Supes!! Wait a minute!! When was the last time an enemy of Superman's died and stayed dead? Well, Lex Luthor, but I'm talking villains with superpowers. Looks like we haven't heard the last of ol' Mannheim.

Pete and Lana—getting MARRIED?!! Boy, this is an interesting subplot!! Let's try to keep these two together now, guys—Lana deserves to be happy.

Jason Crase
Arlington Heights, IL

Hey, Dan:

Re: ACTION COMICS #673

Seeing as how the Hellgrammite was not a major player this time around, and only appeared in four interior panels, how did he manage to rate a cover appearance???

Elvis Orten
Dawson Plains, KY

Dear Action-Type People:

False advertising! False advertising! The Big Red S did not meet up with the Hellgrammite even once in ACTION COMICS #673! Yeah, I know the covers are often done far in advance of when the actual story is written, but try to keep this stuff to a minimum, okay guys? No harm done.

Actually, I really wrote because of the great staring contest between Superman and Mannheim. Classic! This is what makes modern day comics stories so good.

Bob's art looks great and the story was really good, too! Thanks. 'Til next we meet.

Jay Howard
Dublin, CA

Okay, so maybe the Hellgrammite wasn't a major player in the story, but nothing in that cover would lead you to believe that he and Superman would actually meet. We can't help it if we're a little enamored of creepy-looking villains; they're just so much fun to draw! We're glad you were so gracious about it, and for that we kindly give you a Baldy Award. Use it in good health, bud!

Dear Mike and Dan:

Re: ACTION COMICS #673

Lana Lang and Pete Ross tying the knot?

That was fast.

I can't wait until the wedding. That's one issue that should be filled with thought balloons, with so much left unsaid among Lana, Clark, and their associates.

Jan C. Childress
Brooklyn, NY

Dear Roger and Mike:

You had me going there for a while, but Junior seemed just a little too good to be true, more likely kin to Mother Teresa or the Care Bears than Lex Luthor. Glad you clued us in on the charade before he was nominated for a Nobel Prize.

While we now know the score, at least in general, virtually the entire cast has been taken in by his act. In fact, the few who do not suspect him tend to overcompensate, striving to be fair-minded. In many ways, I see this as a plus (unless you stage a month-long testimonial dinner in all four books). Unlike

Daddy, Lex II is an unknown quantity. We don't know how he operates—yet. True, he might be as bad as his father, but then again, there's the off-chance he could even be worse. Seems like he's the most dangerous kind of enemy: one posing as your friend.

Also, after the severe business slump caused by LexCorp's nose-dive (where Perry not only had to edit the *Planet* but then sell it on street corners), perhaps Junior will have greater leeway, in that Metropolis has been taught fear and respect.

Joe Frank
Scottsdale, AZ

Mike:

After seeing the cover of ACTION #673, I would have thought that Hellgrammite's appearance would be more than four panels. Who is he? Where does he come from? How good is he?

What really made the issue for me was Lois and Clark's dialogue on page 21—very reminiscent of Peter and Mary Jane, yet even more touching. I don't want to rag on Marvel's *Spider-Man* line, but the discussion between Lois and Clark seemed much more realistic and less clichéd. Peter is always down, leaving Mary Jane to lighten him up. Clark isn't. Here, even though Clark "won" the battle, he mourns for the supposed death of Mannheim. Congrats to the creative team!

Okay...so Lex Luthor is dead. Is it possible that somehow (maybe through Brainiac) Lex transferred his memories into Lex II?

Thanks again for this issue as well as for Superman himself. Superman's morals are to be applauded and respected—all this for a dollar!

Joe Kucharski III
Haddon Heights, NJ

We're glad you appreciate the depth of characterization we work so hard to put into Superman, Joe; it's a major part of what and who he is. Nowadays it seems whoever is still alive after a gun fight is supposed to be the hero! Spread the word about who the real hero is, and maybe we won't have to bother studying firearms manuals to enjoy half of the comics being published today!

—Dan Thorland
I've Got a Rubber Band and I'm Not Afraid To Use It!

This issue's bird's-eye view of the fight of the century was brought to us by Art Thibert (pencils and inks) and Glenn Whitmore (colors). Sibling rivalry never looked so good!

NEXT WEEK: in **SUPERMAN: THE MAN OF STEEL #12**, a few Warworld warriors are still hiding in Metropolis, and Superman must seek them out before they cause any harm! What the Man of Steel didn't bargain for is *where* the warriors have fled to, and who—or what—is already hiding there! Don't miss the first voyage into Metropolis's UNDERWORLD!

IN TWO WEEKS: He has murdered his own son, broken every law in the book, and now he has been declared public enemy #1! Superman has been asked to bring him in, but can even he capture the deadliest bounty hunter on Earth—Deathstroke the Terminator? Be here for **SUPERMAN #68**, by Dan Jurgens and Brett Breeding.

IN THREE WEEKS: in **ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN #491**, an old foe has become Cerberus's latest and most deadly soldier in his war to kill Superman. Will this state-of-the-art killer succeed in his quest for vengeance? With Cerberus's help he just might! Jerry Ordway, Tom Grummett, and Doug Hazlewood are at the controls for *action*!

IN ONE MONTH: Everyone has been guessing, accusing, and pondering over the fate of a certain corporate mainstay of the Superman universe—in **ACTION COMICS #678** we reveal *all*! Don't you dare miss this issue! By Roger Stern, Jackson Guice, and Denis Rodier!





Blessed as I
am with my
Beauty--

--the most darling
wife one can
imagine--

--I'll e'er be
a Gentleman
Ghost!

never

THE END!